Questions that encourage conversation about books

BEFORE reading

1. What do you think the story will be about?
2. List 3 facts that you might learn about when reading this text.
3. Make a prediction based on the title of the book/the front cover/ the book blurb.
4. What is the genre of this book? (This can be a DURING reading question if it is unknown.) How do you know it is that genre?
5. Why did you choose this book?

DURING reading

1. What is the story mostly about?
2. What is the main idea of the page/chapter/section that you are reading?
3. What is the plot (or what happens) in the story?
4. Where and when does the story take place?
5. Is the setting important in the story? Why do you think so?
6. Who are the main characters?
7. What have you inferred about the character(s)? What problems do they face?
8. What is one of the main characters like? (ex: name a character trait and give an example from the book explaining how that character has that trait.)
9. Who is your favorite character? Why?
10. Which part in the story do you like best? Why?
11. What part have you found interesting or surprising? Why?
12. What are you wondering about while you are reading?
13. What do you visualize (see/hear/feel) as you read?
14. Can you make any connections as you read? (ex: text-to-text, text-to-self, text-to-world)
15. What do you think will happen in the coming pages?

AFTER reading

1. What was the author’s message?
2. Tell me about the book in less than one minute. Include: plot, setting, characters, problem and solution.
3. Did this book remind you of another book that you’ve read (text-to-text connection?)
4. What do you remember most about the story? Why?
5. How do you feel about the end of the story? Would you change anything?
6. Do you think others would like to read this book? Why or why not?
7. WHO would you recommend the book to? Why?